

Date: August 14, 2002
To: File
From: Assistant Director for Geosciences
Subject: Selection of OCE/IPS/Facilities COV Members

The credibility of the COV mechanism rests, in a large measure, on the selection of independent experts who are able to provide balanced and impartial assessments to NSF. Prior to sending out the letters of invitation to serve on the OCE/Integrative Programs Section (IPS) Facilities COV, I consulted the Division Director for Ocean Sciences, the Advisory Committee for Geosciences (Fall, 2001) and received the concurrence of the Assistant Director for Geosciences (dated April 16, 2002) regarding potential COV candidates. At the AC/GEO meeting referenced, one member of AC/GEO (Dr. Kenneth Johnson) offered to chair the COV and another, Dr. Mary Jane Perry, offered to serve on the Committee.

The Committee represented the four primary broad disciplines of the ocean sciences whose communities utilize the ships and related facilities, as well as specialized activities connected with ship and submersible operations for which OCE/IPS Facilities has oversight responsibilities. The Committee contained expertise in ocean sciences, which included all four basic disciplines of Biological, Chemical and Physical Oceanography, as well as Marine Geology/Geophysics. Of the five Committee members, two were women, and two were from other federal agencies, who had direct personal involvement with marine operations and facilities. One of the federal members, Dr. Barbara Moore, is responsible for deep submergence operations, which is a significant part of our facilities operations. As federal administrators, they have had no grants from NSF.

The three community members are regular ship users. Dr. Thomas Shipley is from the University of Texas, which operates a small ship that receives a small amount of support from NSF. He was, thus, in conflict with his own institution's jackets, and did not see them. Another community member, Dr. Johnson, is from a private non-academic institution, which operates its own ship with no support from NSF. The third member, Dr. Perry, is from a non ship-operating institution.

Dr. Johnson identified himself as being in conflict with Moss Landing, and did not see jackets related to this institution. There were no other identified conflicts of interest. COV members present during the meeting were:

Kenneth S. Johnson (COV Chair)
Science Department Chair
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute

Barbara Moore
Director, National Undersea Research Program
NOAA

Mary Jane Perry
Professor, Oceanography
Darling Marine Center
University of Maine

Thomas H. Shipley
Senior Research Scientist
Institute for Geophysics
University of Texas

Richard W. Spinrad
Technical Director
Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy